

Madam Speaker, the life of Araby Colton was full of joy and purpose. She cared about the world around her and worked tirelessly to make it a better place, not just for humans, but for all creatures. She would be delighted to think that she was a thorn in the sides of politicians, but I have only respect and admiration for a lady with such deep convictions. I know I speak for the whole House in extending condolences to her family. Araby will be greatly missed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Congressman ALTMIRE for offering this amendment and also want to thank Chairman MILLER for his support. Over the past two Congresses I have introduced legislation very similar to the language we are now considering, and I am very hopeful that it will be included in today's bill.

For every soldier who is deployed overseas, there is a family back home faced with new and challenging hardships. The toll extends beyond emotional stress. From raising a child to managing household finances to day-to-day events, families have to find the time and resources to deal with the absence of a loved one.

Today's amendment offers a way to help ease this transition. The Altmire-Udall amendment would allow spouses, parents or children of military personnel to use Family and Medical Leave Act benefits for issues related directly to the deployment of a soldier. Current FMLA benefits allow individuals to take time off for the birth of a child or to care for a family member with a serious illness. The deployment of a soldier is no less of a crisis and certainly puts new demands on families. We should ensure that the FMLA benefits given in other circumstances are provided to our fighting families during their time of need.

The passage of this amendment and its inclusion in the final conference report will bring new relief to thousands of families across the nation, and it will demonstrate the thanks we owe our brave men and women serving overseas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 345 through 349 on May 15, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of SSG Timothy P. Padgett.

I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 345, final passage on H.R. 634—American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 346, final passage on H.R. 692—Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 347, final passage on

H.R. 916—John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 348, final passage on H.R. 1700—COPS Improvement Act of 2007, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 349, final passage on H.R. 1773—Safe American Roads Act, "aye".

SMALL BUSINESS FAIRNESS IN
CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1873—the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act.

The 10th Edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines fairness as being: impartial, honest; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism. For too long small businesses have been overlooked, short changed and under-funded. For the first time in over a decade this House voted on a bill to open the \$380 billion federal marketplace to small businesses across the country.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will not only bring about strong economic growth but also create jobs. This bill does that by: Ensuring that new regulations and databases are added to encourage and promote fairness in the use of small businesses in government contracting; increasing the overall national goal of using contracts with small businesses; and increasing the goal for contracts with disadvantaged and women-owned businesses. These changes are vital to small businesses all over this country.

For the past 6 years, the government has failed to meet its 23 percent small business contracting goal. This has cost small business \$10 billion in lost contracting opportunities.

In the 3rd district of Florida, small business owner Lisa Wolf of Wolf Technologies informed me that she faces many contracting problems and loss of business due to the bundling of small projects into large mega contracts. Ms. Wolf owns a geotechnical engineering firm and has gained a reputation for helping clients exceed their goals; she cannot effectively do this without small Federal contracts.

Entrepreneurs and small businesses like Lisa Wolf's are key players in the economy of Florida.

Florida has an estimated total of 1,837,800 small businesses and 29 percent of them are women-owned firms.

According to the Florida Small Business Development Center:

The stability and growth of Florida's economy depends largely on the vitality of our state's small businesses who are a diverse group of entrepreneurs and innovators. This large and growing group keeps the Florida economy productive.

This bill ensures that more Federal contracts are available to small firms like Lisa's and also increases the procurement opportunities for the small, disadvantaged and women-owned businesses.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is not only a great investment to my home State of Florida but most importantly to our nation's small businesses and I strongly support it.

TRIBUTE TO DESCHUTES COUNTY
SHERIFF LES STILES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a dedicated Oregonian, and a tremendous public servant: former Deschutes County Sheriff Les Stiles. Sheriff Stiles retired last month, and tomorrow night his many years of achievements on behalf of the residents of Central Oregon will be celebrated at a public event in Bend, OR. Sheriff Stiles dedicated his career to keeping the city of Bend and Deschutes County a safe and desirable place to live and visit. quit

Sheriff Stiles has always exuded an interest in public policy and making our communities better and safer. His commitment to our country dates back to his service with the U.S. Army where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant with the Corps of Engineers. Les also served with the U.S. Army Reserves as a captain in the infantry from 1968 until 1974. After serving in defense of the United States of America, Les turned toward educational pursuits that would provide him with the knowledge that, complemented with his life experience, would ultimately allow him to better serve the citizens of Oregon.

In 1974, Les received a bachelor's degree in English from Illinois State University. From there, he went on to earn a masters degree in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1982, Les focused exclusively on law enforcement and completed the grueling training session at the FBI National Academy's 128th session. Madam Speaker, this was not the end of the sheriff's commitment to education. Later in life he graduated from the National Sheriffs Institute and in 2005 he graduated from the FBI Executive Leadership Program. He spent 15 years teaching at Central Oregon Community College and was always willing to address a community group on a pending issue.

Madam Speaker, the city of Bend, OR, received great fortune when Les and his family moved to the beautiful central Oregon region after his training at the FBI Academy. During 25 years of law enforcement in central Oregon, Les served first as a patrolman, eventually as Bend's chief of police, and ultimately as the sheriff of Deschutes County. Sheriff Stiles has been a strong advocate in combating the scourge of methamphetamine and its devastating impact on communities across the country. Sheriff Stiles quickly recognized the significant harm and damage this terrible poison inflicts on families and communities and was a real leader in bringing the problems associated with methamphetamine use to the forefront and attention of the general public. He's been diligent in his efforts to get this deadly drug off the streets, a vocal proponent and promoter of prevention efforts, and tireless in his efforts to support and promote treatment programs for those in desperate need of help.

My colleagues, when Les Stiles took office as the sheriff of Deschutes County, he inherited quite a mess. His predecessor pled guilty